

Amend Revenue and Taxation Code Section 6377.1 of the Sales and Use Tax Law to include within the manufacturers' partial sales and use tax exemption, those otherwise qualified persons that conduct agricultural business activities that are currently excluded from that exemption.

Source: Honorable Jerome Horton

Existing Law. Except where the law provides a specific exemption or exclusion, California's Sales and Use Tax Law¹ imposes the sales tax on all retailers for the privilege of selling tangible personal property at retail in this state or the use tax on the storage, use, or other consumption in this state of tangible personal property purchased from a retailer.

Beginning July 1, 2014, and until July 1, 2022, existing law² provides manufacturers and certain other qualified persons, a 4.1875% state sales and use tax exemption for their qualifying tangible personal property purchases, such as machinery and equipment purchased for use primarily in their manufacturing activities.

The law excludes from the definition of a "qualified person" a trade or business that, among other things, conducts agricultural business activities, as defined, when the following apply to that trade or business:

- It derives more than 50% of their "gross business receipts" from agricultural business activities, and
- It is required to apportion its business income pursuant to specified income tax related provisions, or
- It is a trade or business conducted wholly within this state that would be required to apportion its business income pursuant to specified income tax provisions if it were subject to apportionment.

The law³ defines "agricultural business activity" to mean activities relating to any stock, dairy, poultry, fruit, furbearing animal, or truck farm, plantation, ranch, nursery, or range. The law further specifies that the term includes activities relating to cultivating the soil or raising or harvesting any agricultural or horticultural commodity, including, but not limited to, the raising, shearing, feeding, caring for, training, or management of animals on a farm as well as the handling, drying, packing, grading, or storing on a farm any agricultural or horticultural commodity in its unmanufactured state, but only if the owner, tenant, or operator of the farm regularly produces more than one-half of the commodity so treated.

Under current law,⁴ a 5.50% sales and use tax exemption applies to a "qualified person's" purchases of farm equipment and machinery, and the parts thereof, to be used primarily in producing and harvesting agricultural products. A "qualified person" means, among others, a person engaged in a line of business described in Codes 0111

¹ Part 1 (commencing with Section 6001) of Division 2 of the Revenue and Taxation Code (RTC).

² RTC Section 6377.1.

³ RTC Section 25128.

⁴ RTC Section 6356.5.

to 0291 of the Standard Industrial Manual. This includes various categories of agricultural crop and livestock production establishments.

This Proposal. This proposal would include within the partial sales and use tax exemption applicable to qualifying purchases for use primarily in manufacturing activities, those qualified persons that conduct agricultural business activities that are currently excluded from this partial exemption.

This proposal addresses situations in which otherwise qualifying food manufacturers do not qualify for the partial sales and use tax exemption for their manufacturing equipment-related purchases because they derive more than 50% of their "gross business receipts" from "agricultural business activities." While the farm equipment and machinery purchased for use in their agricultural operations qualifies for the 5.50% farm equipment and machinery sales and use tax exemption, other machinery and equipment purchased for use in their food manufacturing operations do not qualify.

Revenue Impact. For calendar year 2015, we estimate the revenue loss to be \$9.6 million.

Revenue and Taxation Code Section 6377.1 is amended to read:

6377.1. (a) Except as provided in subdivision (e), on or after July 1, 2014, and before July 1, 2022, there are exempted from the taxes imposed by this part the gross receipts from the sale of, and the storage, use, or other consumption in this state of, any of the following:

(1) Qualified tangible personal property purchased for use by a qualified person to be used primarily in any stage of the manufacturing, processing, refining, fabricating, or recycling of tangible personal property, beginning at the point any raw materials are received by the qualified person and introduced into the process and ending at the point at which the manufacturing, processing, refining, fabricating, or recycling has altered tangible personal property to its completed form, including packaging, if required.

(2) Qualified tangible personal property purchased for use by a qualified person to be used primarily in research and development.

(3) Qualified tangible personal property purchased for use by a qualified person to be used primarily to maintain, repair, measure, or test any qualified tangible personal property described in paragraph (1) or (2).

(4) Qualified tangible personal property purchased for use by a contractor purchasing that property for use in the performance of a construction contract for the qualified person, that will use that property as an integral part of the manufacturing, processing, refining, fabricating, or recycling process, or as a research or storage facility for use in connection with those processes.

(b) For purposes of this section:

(1) "Fabricating" means to make, build, create, produce, or assemble components or tangible personal property to work in a new or different manner.

(2) "Manufacturing" means the activity of converting or conditioning tangible personal property by changing the form, composition, quality, or character of the property for ultimate sale at retail or use in the manufacturing of a product to be

ultimately sold at retail. Manufacturing includes any improvements to tangible personal property that result in a greater service life or greater functionality than that of the original property.

(3) "Primarily" means 50 percent or more of the time.

(4) "Process" means the period beginning at the point at which any raw materials are received by the qualified person and introduced into the manufacturing, processing, refining, fabricating, or recycling activity of the qualified person and ending at the point at which the manufacturing, processing, refining, fabricating, or recycling activity of the qualified person has altered tangible personal property to its completed form, including packaging, if required. Raw materials shall be considered to have been introduced into the process when the raw materials are stored on the same premises where the qualified person's manufacturing, processing, refining, fabricating, or recycling activity is conducted. Raw materials that are stored on premises other than where the qualified person's manufacturing, processing, refining, fabricating, or recycling activity is conducted shall not be considered to have been introduced into the manufacturing, processing, refining, fabricating, or recycling process.

(5) "Processing" means the physical application of the materials and labor necessary to modify or change the characteristics of tangible personal property.

(6) (A) "Qualified person" means a person that is primarily engaged in those lines of business described in Codes 3111 to 3399, inclusive, 541711, or 541712 of the North American Industry Classification System (NAICS) published by the United States Office of Management and Budget (OMB), 2012 edition.

(B) Notwithstanding subparagraph (A), "qualified person" shall not include either of the following:

(i) An apportioning trade or business that is required to apportion its business income pursuant to subdivision (b) of Section 25128.

(ii) A trade or business conducted wholly within this state that would be required to apportion its business income pursuant to subdivision (b) of Section 25128 if it were subject to apportionment pursuant to Section 25101.

(iii) This subparagraph shall not apply to a qualified person described in subparagraph (A) that is also engaged in an agricultural business activity described in paragraph (2) of subdivision (d) of Section 25128.

(7) (A) "Qualified tangible personal property" includes, but is not limited to, all of the following:

(i) Machinery and equipment, including component parts and contrivances such as belts, shafts, moving parts, and operating structures.

(ii) Equipment or devices used or required to operate, control, regulate, or maintain the machinery, including, but not limited to, computers, data-processing equipment, and computer software, together with all repair and replacement parts with a useful life of one or more years therefor, whether purchased separately or in conjunction with a complete machine and regardless of whether the machine or component parts are assembled by the qualified person or another party.

(iii) Tangible personal property used in pollution control that meets standards established by this state or any local or regional governmental agency within this state.

(iv) Special purpose buildings and foundations used as an integral part of the manufacturing, processing, refining, fabricating, or recycling process, or that constitute a research or storage facility used during those processes. Buildings used solely for warehousing purposes after completion of those processes are not included.

(B) "Qualified tangible personal property" shall not include any of the following:

(i) Consumables with a useful life of less than one year.

(ii) Furniture, inventory, and equipment used in the extraction process, or equipment used to store finished products that have completed the manufacturing, processing, refining, fabricating, or recycling process.

(iii) Tangible personal property used primarily in administration, general management, or marketing.

(8) "Refining" means the process of converting a natural resource to an intermediate or finished product.

(9) "Research and development" means those activities that are described in Section 174 of the Internal Revenue Code or in any regulations thereunder.

(10) "Useful life" for tangible personal property that is treated as having a useful life of one or more years for state income or franchise tax purposes shall be deemed to have a useful life of one or more years for purposes of this section. "Useful life" for tangible personal property that is treated as having a useful life of less than one year for state income or franchise tax purposes shall be deemed to have a useful life of less than one year for purposes of this section.

(c) An exemption shall not be allowed under this section unless the purchaser furnishes the retailer with an exemption certificate, completed in accordance with any instructions or regulations as the board may prescribe, and the retailer retains the exemption certificate in its records and furnishes it to the board upon request.

(d) (1) Notwithstanding the Bradley-Burns Uniform Local Sales and Use Tax Law (Part 1.5 (commencing with Section 7200)) and the Transactions and Use Tax Law (Part 1.6 (commencing with Section 7251)), the exemption established by this section shall not apply with respect to any tax levied by a county, city, or district pursuant to, or in accordance with, either of those laws.

(2) Notwithstanding subdivision (a), the exemption established by this section shall not apply with respect to any tax levied pursuant to Section 6051.2, 6051.5, 6201.2, or 6201.5, pursuant to Section 35 of Article XIII of the California Constitution, or any tax levied pursuant to Section 6051 or 6201 that is deposited in the State Treasury to the credit of the Local Revenue Fund 2011 pursuant to Section 6051.15 or 6201.15.

(e) (1) The exemption provided by this section shall not apply to either of the following:

(A) Any tangible personal property purchased during any calendar year that exceeds two hundred million dollars (\$200,000,000) of purchases of qualified tangible personal property for which an exemption is claimed by a qualified person

under this section. For purposes of this subparagraph, in the case of a qualified person that is required to be included in a combined report under Section 25101 or authorized to be included in a combined report under Section 25101.15, the aggregate of all purchases of qualified personal property for which an exemption is claimed pursuant to this section by all persons that are required or authorized to be included in a combined report shall not exceed two hundred million dollars (\$200,000,000) in any calendar year.

(B) The sale or storage, use, or other consumption of property that, within one year from the date of purchase, is removed from California, converted from an exempt use under subdivision (a) to some other use not qualifying for exemption, or used in a manner not qualifying for exemption.

(2) If a purchaser certifies in writing to the seller that the tangible personal property purchased without payment of the tax will be used in a manner entitling the seller to regard the gross receipts from the sale as exempt from the sales tax, and the purchase exceeds the two-hundred-million-dollar (\$200,000,000) limitation described in subparagraph (A) of paragraph (1), or within one year from the date of purchase, the purchaser removes that property from California, converts that property for use in a manner not qualifying for the exemption, or uses that property in a manner not qualifying for the exemption, the purchaser shall be liable for payment of sales tax, with applicable interest, as if the purchaser were a retailer making a retail sale of the tangible personal property at the time the tangible personal property is so purchased, removed, converted, or used, and the cost of the tangible personal property to the purchaser shall be deemed the gross receipts from that retail sale.

(f) This section shall apply to leases of qualified tangible personal property classified as "continuing sales" and "continuing purchases" in accordance with Sections 6006.1 and 6010.1. The exemption established by this section shall apply to the rentals payable pursuant to the lease, provided the lessee is a qualified person and the tangible personal property is used in an activity described in subdivision (a).

(g) (1) Upon the effective date of this section, the Department of Finance shall estimate the total dollar amount of exemptions that will be taken for each calendar year, or any portion thereof, for which this section provides an exemption.

(2) No later than each March 1 next following a calendar year for which this section provides an exemption, the board shall provide to the Joint Legislative Budget Committee a report of the total dollar amount of exemptions taken under this section for the immediately preceding calendar year. The report shall compare the total dollar amount of exemptions taken under this section for that calendar year with the department's estimate for that same calendar year. If that total dollar amount taken is less than the estimate for that calendar year, the report shall identify options for increasing exemptions taken so as to meet estimated amounts.

(h) This section is repealed on January 1, 2023.